

Where Your Water Goes

The following table shows amounts of water consumed by average usage. It can help you determine how much water your family uses each day, and how much water you could save by replacing old appliances and fixtures and adopting some waterwise habits.

Activity	# of Times	Circumstances	Water Used ²	Total Use
Bathroom				
Toilet	5 flushes ¹	ULV toilet	1.6 gal/flush	8 gal
		Conventional toilet	3.5 - 7 gal/flush	17.5 - 35 gal
Shower	One – 8 min. ¹	Low-flow showerhead	2.5 gal/minute	20 gal
		Conventional showerhead	3 - 8 gal/minute	24 - 64 gal
Bath	Once	Tub 1/4 to 1/3 full	9 - 12 gal	9 - 12 gal
		Full tub	30 - 45 gal	30 - 45 gal
Shaving	Once	1 full basin	1 gal	1 gal
		Open tap, 5 minutes	1.5 - 7 gpm	7.5 - 35 gal
Brushing teeth	Twice	Brush and rinse	1/4 - 1/2 gal	1/2 - 1 gal
		Open tap, 2 minutes	1.5 - 7 gpm	3 - 14 gal
Hand washing	Seven	1 full basin	1 gal	7 gal
		Open tap, 1 minute	1.5 - 7 gpm	1.5 - 7 gal
Kitchen				
Cooking	Washing produce	1 full kitchen basin	1 - 2 gal	1 - 2 gal
		Open tap, 3 minutes	1.5 - 7 gpm	4.5 - 21 gal
Dishwasher	Once - full load	Water-conserving model	4.5 - 7 gal	4.5 - 7 gal
		Standard cycle	10 - 14 gal	10 - 14 gal
Dishwashing by hand	Once	Full basin/wash & rinse	2 - 4 gal.	2 - 4 gal
		Open tap for 5 minutes	3 - 7 gpm	15 - 35 gal
Miscellaneous				
Laundry	Once	Front-loader (h-axis)	13 - 20 gal	13 - 20 gal
		Conventional top-loader	35 - 50 gal	35 - 50 gal
Car washing	Once	5 full, 2 gal. buckets	10 gal/wash	10 gal
		Hose for 5 min	5/8" hose	32 gal
Lawn watering	During hot dry spells, Kentucky bluegrass will need 3/4" of water twice a week, Turf-type tall fescue will need 1/2" - 3/4" of water twice a week,* and Buffalo grass will need 1/2" - 3/4" every other week*			

¹ Residential End Uses of Water (American Water Works Association Research Foundation, 1999)

² Handbook of Water Use and Conservation, Amy Vickers (Waterplow Press: Amherst, MA, 2001)